

Message Text

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60

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EUR-10 NEA-06 EB-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /059 W

----- 105453

R 182223 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5164

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

CINCUSAFE/ AVON RAMSTEIN

CINCUSAFE/ REAR LINDSEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 07212

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GW, MASS, LE

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF EXPLOSIVE CARGO VIA FRG TO LEBANON

1. USDAO BONN HAS RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM USDAO BEIRUT WITH FOLLOWING TEXT: QUOTE (1) (C) MAC DOVER AFB HAS CLASS A EXPLOSIVE CARGO DESTINED FOR LEBANESE ARMY AND CAN DELIVER TO RAMSTEIN AB VIA CHANNEL MSN. (2) (U) COULD CLEARANCE BE ARRANGED AT RAMSTEIN FOR LEB CIVIL CARGO CARRIER TMA LAND AND LOAD CARGO FOR DELIVERY BEIRUT. TMA HAS GERMAN RIGHTS AT RHEIN MAIN FOR SCHE- DULED FLIGHT AND COULD MAKE STOP AT RAMSTEIN CARGO SPACE PERMITTING. OTHERWISE COULD TMA SCHEDULE SPECIAL AIR- LIFT DC-6 TO RAMSTEIN? (3) (U) WILL SUBMIT FORMAL REQUEST BASED ON YOUR INFO. END QUOTE.

2. FRG HAS STRICT REGULATIONS GOVERNING TRANSPORT OF EXPLOSIVE CARGO, FOR WHICH PERMISSION MUST BE OBTAINED FROM FEDERAL MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (FMT). NORMAL PRO- CEDURE WOULD BE FOR CIVIL CARRIER TO APPLY DIRECTLY TO THE MINISTRY. IN THE CASE AT HAND, TMA WOULD HAVE TO MAKE SEPARATE APPLICATIONS FOR PERMISSION TO LAND AT
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RAMSTEIN AND TO PICK UP EXPLOSIVE CARGO.

3. BEFORE SUGGESTING THAT THIS PROCEDURE BE FOLLOWED, HOWEVER, EMBASSY WISHES TO POINT OUT POSSIBLE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED OPERATION AND RAISE CERTAIN QUESTIONS. POLITICAL SENSITIVITY STEMS FROM FACT THAT FRG DESIRES AVOID ANY INVOLVEMENT IN MIDEAST CONFRONTATION AND HAS FOR YEARS PURSUED POLICY OF NOT PROVIDING WEAPONS TO AREAS OF TENSION OR CONFLICT. LIKELIHOOD OF FRG SENSITIVITY TO TRANSFER OF WEAPONS OR AMMO VIA ITS TERRITORY IS ENLARGED AT PRESENT TIME BY IMMINENT VISIT OF FONMIN SCHEEL TO MIDEAST, INCLUDING BEIRUT (HE PLANS NOW TO LEAVE ON MAY 21). CHANCELLOR BRANDT IS PLANNING A " BALANCING" VISIT TO ISRAEL BEGINNING JUNE 7.

4. IN VIEW OF THIS SENSITIVITY, EMBASSY WISHES ASK:

(A) HAVE THERE ALREADY BEEN ANY US MILITARY- OPERATED TRANSFERS OF WEAPONS OR EXPLOSIVE CARGO VIA FRG TERRITORY TO LEBANON IN CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT CRISIS?

(B) IF SO, WHAT FRG AUTHORITIES WERE INFORMED OF THE OPERATION AND WHAT WAS THEIR REACTION?

5. WOULD APPRECIATE ANSWERS TO ABOVE QUESTIONS BEFORE ANY ACTION TAKEN TO SEND TMA PLANE TO RAMSTEIN OR TO SEEK FRG AUTHORIZATION FOR SUCH A FLIGHT.

6. IF PROPER APPROVALS AND PERMITS ARE OBTAINED FROM FRG AUTHORITIES AT BOTH POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL LEVEL, WE WOULD OF COURSE SEE NO OBJECTION TO THE FLIGHT.
HILLENBRAND

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